

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the non-final office action mailed November 16, 2005. Applicants thank the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 17, and 18 if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base and any intervening claims. The Examiner's suggestions have been fully adopted, as explained below, solely to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, applicants reserve the right to pursue the same or a different scope of claims in related applications.

Claims 4, 8, 11, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 7, and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 21-24 have been added. The currently pending claims after entry of this amendment in this application are 4-6, 8-16, and 18-24. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 4 has been amended to fully adopt the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 7, and now includes all the limitations of claim 7 which depended directly from claim 4. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 4 was amended in lieu of rewriting claim 17 in order to preserve the order of claims already depending from claim 4, thereby simplifying and reducing the amount of claim revisions for the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be allowable. Claims 5 and 6 depending directly or indirectly from claim 4 are believed to be allowable with claim 4 since they include all of its limitations.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to fully adopt the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 17, and now includes all the limitations of claim 17 which depended directly from claim 8. Claim 17 has been cancelled. Claim 8 was amended in lieu of rewriting claim 17 in order to preserve the order of claims already depending from claim 8, thereby simplifying and reducing the amount of claim revisions for the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be allowable. Claims 9-16 depending directly or indirectly from claim 8 are believed to be allowable with claim 8 since they include all of its limitations.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form to fully adopt the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 18 includes all the limitations of base claim 8 and intervening claim 17 from which it depended. Accordingly, claim 18 is believed to be allowable. Claims 19 and 20 depending directly or indirectly from claim 18 are believed to be allowable with claim 18 since they include all of its limitations.

New claim 21 has been added and includes all the limitations of amended claim 8 which was revised to adopt the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as explained above. Claim 21 is a combination claim and further adds a fastener-driving tool to claim 8 to further clarify the relationship of the width of the resilient member to the diameter of the tool barrel in one embodiment. Accordingly, claim 21 requires "wherein the width of the resilient member is larger than the first diameter of the barrel of the fastener-driving tool." This claim is supported by Applicant's original disclosure at least on page 7, paragraph 28 and page 3, paragraph 6 of the specification. New claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is supported by Applicant's original disclosure at least on page 6, paragraph 26 of the specification and FIGS. 3A-3D. New claim 23 depends from claim 21 and is supported by Applicant's original disclosure at least on page 6, paragraph 25 of the specification. New claim 24 depends from claim 21 and is supported by Applicant's original disclosure at least on page 6, paragraph 25 of the specification and FIGS. 1, 3A & 3D. No new matter has been added.

New claim 21 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 8 which has been incorporated therein as explained above, and the additional limitations added which further distinguish over the prior art. Claims 22-24 are believed to be allowable with claim 8 and in view of the additional limitations added by these claims which further distinguish over the prior art.

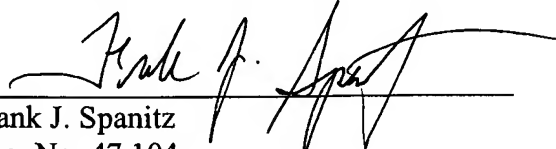
In sum, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner does not agree with the allowability of any pending claims, the Examiner is invited to kindly call the undersigned attorney at 212-309-6375 to discuss any remaining issues to expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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